

Dissecting a Poem for Meaning

Instructions: First read the poem below and then answer the questions.

Gathering Leaves

By Robert Frost

What is the author trying to say in this stanza?

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.

What kind of figurative language did the author use here?

I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.

What kind of figurative language did the author use here?

But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.

What is the author trying to say in this stanza?

I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.

What does *duller* mean?

What does *harvest* mean?

Next to nothing for use,
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say where
The harvest shall stop?

What is Robert Frost talking about in this poem?
